Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wilson, L.D. 1991. *Tantilla petersi*.

Tantilla petersi Wilson

Tantilla petersi Wilson, 1979:274. Type-locality, "San Nicolas, Pimanpiro [=Pimampiro, 0°26'N, 77°58'W], Provincial Imbabura, Ecuador." Holotype, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) 92074, an adult female collected 10 June 1934 (not 15 April, as stated by Wilson, 1979, *fide* Kluge, 1984) by P. Hershkovitz (examined by author).

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition and Diagnosis.** A species of *Tantilla* with no head pattern and "a dorsal pattern consisting of dark pigment concentrated at the base of the dorsal scales (more heavily laterally than dorsally) on an otherwise pale grayish-tan dorsum" (Wilson, 1979). Ventrals and subcaudals range from 160-172 and 59-61, respectively.

• **Descriptions.** The original description is in Wilson (1979); a supplemental one is in Wilson (1987).

• **Illustrations.** Wilson (1979) published a black-and-white photograph of the lateral view of the head and anterior body of the holotype, as well as a pen-and-ink drawing of the dorsal color pattern.

• **Distribution.** *Tantilla petersi* is known only from the type-locality and another locality (see Remarks) at intermediate elevations (cas. 2100-2150 m) at the extreme northern end of the Andean highlands of Ecuador.

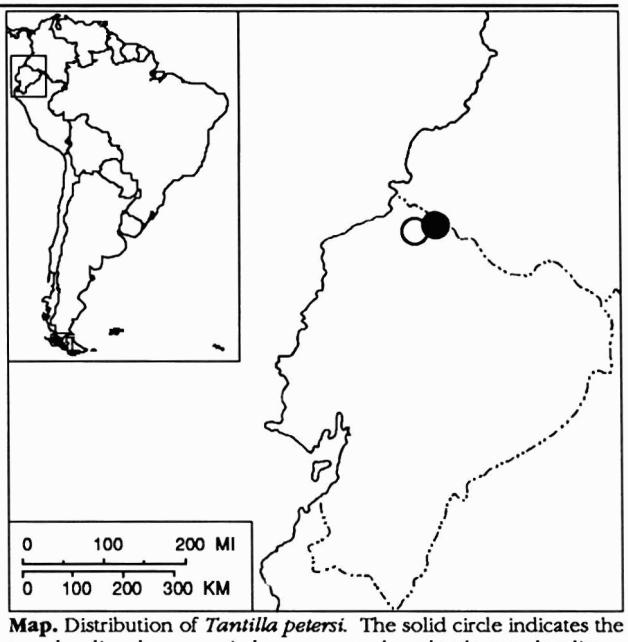
• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** All hitherto available information on this species is in Wilson (1979, 1987).

• **Remarks.** Since the initial description of this taxon, a second specimen (USNM 287939) has surfaced, collected at Leonidas Ponce, between Yaguarcocha and Ibarra, Prov. Imbabura, Ecuador. The specimen is the first male known of the species, and its characteristics are in general agreement with those of the female holotype, including details of the color pattern. Minor differences in head scutellation include 7-6 supralabials (supralabials 6 and 7 are fused on the right side of the head) and 2-2 preoculars (a small scale is separated from the ventral portion of the typically large, single preocular). Ventrals and subcaudals are 160 and 61, respectively; total length and tail length are 467 mm and 93 mm, respectively; and the tail length/total length ratio is 0.199. As is usual in *Tantilla*, the male specimen has fewer ventrals and more subcaudals than does the female.

• **Etymology.** The name *petersi* is a patronym in honor of the late James A. Peters, former curator of reptiles and amphibians at the National Museum of Natural History and student of the Ecuadoran herpetofauna.

Figure 1. Lateral view of the head of the holotype of *Tantilla petersi* (from Wilson, 1979).



Map. Distribution of *Tantilla petersi*. The solid circle indicates the type-locality, the open circle represents the other known locality.

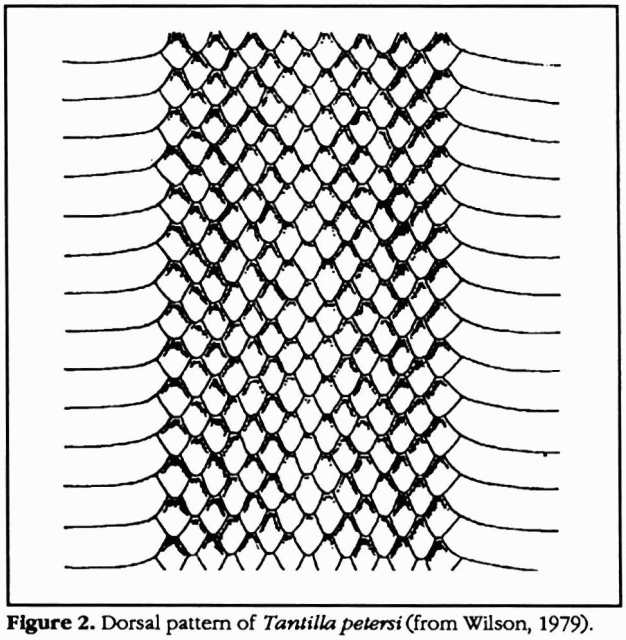


Figure 2. Dorsal pattern of *Tantilla petersi* (from Wilson, 1979).

Literature Cited

Kluge, A.G. 1984. Type-specimens of reptiles in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan (167):1-85.

Wilson, L.D. 1979. A new snake of genus *Tantilla* from Ecuador. Herpetologica 35:274-276.

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